

(Mr. RENZI) for management of this proposed legislation. I commend the gentleman for his tremendous knowledge of sea turtles. I know there are a lot of turtles in Arizona, and I commend him for his assistance in passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill has the bipartisan support not only of the chairman of our Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), but also the ranking member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO), and others who are cosponsors of this legislation.

Marine turtles have been swimming in the world's oceans for an estimated 100 million years. Unfortunately, marine scientists speculate that certain species, such as the Pacific leatherback, may become extinct in the next 5 to 30 years unless the world takes notice of many threats confronting sea turtles.

I am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3378, which would establish a new international conservation matching grant program to protect marine turtles, especially their nesting habitats, around the globe.

I applaud, again, the chairman of our fisheries subcommittee for his leadership, and also the Committee on Resources chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and the ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their leadership and support of this legislation.

□ 1415

Again I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in full support of my friend and colleague, Mr. GILCHREST, in his efforts to protect sea turtles. Mr. GILCHREST has a long history of working diligently to protect marine wildlife and this bill, H.R. 3378, the Marine Turtle Conservation Act, demonstrates his ongoing interest in this area.

Mr. Speaker, both the Pew and U.S. Ocean Commission Reports have documented the many crises facing our oceans. These are crises that require real leadership by this body. Today, we have the opportunity to demonstrate our leadership by passing Mr. GILCHREST's bill.

With 6 of 7 marine turtles listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, H.R. 3378 is a wake-up call. Like the sea otter—an animal especially important to my district—sea turtles play vital roles in the ecosystems in which they occur. This means that our efforts to restore sea turtle populations will likely have the indirect effect of benefiting many other marine species. More bang for the buck. I think we all like it when that happens.

Sea turtles straddle numerous political borders—they are highly migratory species whose conservation depends on cooperative efforts by humans across the globe. These cooperative efforts require political and financial commitments by many groups, from individual countries to non-governmental organizations to local communities. When all of these levels

of leadership come together in a cohesive manner, our protection of sea turtles is dramatically increased. H.R. 3378 coordinates all of these levels by authorizing funds for on-the-ground efforts to protect sea turtles in countries where a lack of funds, not a lack of will, is the problem.

Mr. Speaker, it is only through international efforts that sea turtle populations will begin to rebound. I know that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Fish and Wildlife Service work hard to oversee our country's efforts to protect sea turtles and to collaborate with other countries at every opportunity. With passage of H.R. 3378, we can take our leadership to the next level by providing grants to international groups with demonstrated experience in conserving sea turtles. By doing this, the United States can demonstrate its leadership in coastal and ocean conservation—something near and dear to my heart.

Mr. GILCHREST has addressed one piece of the puzzle and I commend him for his efforts. The next step—and I think that Mr. GILCHREST would agree—is to provide a long-term vision about our relationship with the sea by passing a national ocean policy act. I am working on BOB, the Big Ocean Bill, with the coauthors of the bipartisan House Oceans Caucus. I know we would all welcome Mr. GILCHREST's leadership and expertise on marine wildlife and fisheries conservation as we move forward with BOB.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 3378 and hope that it represents the beginning of a new era in U.S. ocean policy.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3378, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPLACING CERTAIN COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAPS

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1663) to replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN COASTAL BARRIER RESOURCES SYSTEM MAPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The 2 maps subtitled “NC-07P”, relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System unit designated as Coastal Barrier Resources System Cape Fear Unit NC-07P, that are included in the set of maps entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System” and referred to in section 4(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(a)), are hereby replaced by 2 other maps relating to

those units entitled “Coastal Barrier Resources System Cape Fear Unit, NC-07P” and dated May 5, 2004.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of the Interior shall keep the maps referred to in subsection (a) on file and available for inspection in accordance with the provisions of section 4(b) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3503(b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the Senate bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S. 1663, introduced by Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, will remove 284 acres of private fastland, wetlands and open water property that has been mistakenly included within the Coastal Barrier Resources System. A similar bill, H.R. 2501, has been proposed by our colleague the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE). Specifically this legislation would replace two incorrectly drawn maps with updated digitized maps that accurately reflect the boundaries of the Cape Fear unit in North Carolina. This unit, which is referred to as an otherwise protected area, was established to protect certain public lands already held for conservation purposes. Regrettably, because of honest mistakes, the boundaries delineated on the maps erroneously include private property that is not an inholding. Under the terms of this measure, 26 homes and a number of undeveloped lots on Bald Head Island, North Carolina will be removed from the system. At the same time, however, 6,760 acres of additional military and State park lands will be added to the coastal barrier system for a net gain of 6,476 acres.

During the hearing on this legislation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service testified in support of this needed correction and stated that the private properties in question are outside the boundaries of the conservation area and are not held for conservation purposes.

I urge support of this bill so that these homeowners can obtain the Federal flood insurance they need to protect their property and so that the boundaries of this coastal barrier unit can accurately reflect those lands that should be held for conservation purposes.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. I thank the gentleman from Arizona for again his management of this proposed legislation.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was introduced by the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Mrs. DOLE, and in compliance also a companion bill was introduced in the House by my good friend the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE).

As stated by the previous speaker, Mr. Speaker, S. 1663 is noncontroversial legislation that would correct the boundaries of an otherwise protected area located near the mouth of the Cape Fear River in North Carolina. I want to thank again Chairman GILCHREST and Ranking Member PALLONE of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans for their contributions in making an improvement to this proposed legislation.

The technical corrections contained in the new maps that would be adopted through passage of this bill have been painstakingly reviewed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and all local property owners to ensure their accuracy. In fact, I cannot recall another comparable bill that has undergone such a thorough review. In this regard again I want to congratulate and praise the House sponsor of companion legislation, H.R. 2501, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCINTYRE), for his perseverance in seeing this process through. The gentleman from North Carolina's diligence and persistence have resulted in a final product that addresses the legitimate needs of his constituents. Most important, Mr. Speaker, this legislation respects and upholds the integrity of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1663, a bill to replace certain Coastal Barrier Resources System maps relevant to Bald Head Island, North Carolina. Having worked with the U.S. House Committee on Resources and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on making these necessary corrections to the maps pertaining to Bald Head Island, I am pleased that the U.S. House of Representatives will be moving forward and passing this legislation today.

Congress enacted the Coastal Barrier Resources Act in 1982 in order to address problems caused by coastal barrier development. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act restricts Federal expenditures and financial assistance, including Federal flood insurance, for development on coastal barriers.

Later, the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990 added "otherwise protected areas" to the System. Otherwise protected areas are undeveloped coastal barriers within the boundaries of lands reserved for conservation purposes such as wildlife refuges and parks.

While they were not made part of the Coastal Barrier Resources System, Congress forbade the issuance of new flood insurance or any Federal development-related assistance in otherwise protected areas.

Three years ago, the Fish and Wildlife Service and the citizens of Bald Head Island informed me that the maps of the area on the island, known as NC07P, were inaccurate. The errors in the maps deny flood insurance to certain property owners on Bald Head Island, North Carolina. These errors resulted from the problems inherent in translating lines drawn on the large-scale maps used for designations into precise, on-the-ground property lines.

However, this problem is now fixable due to improved technology available to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The mistakes that led to the Bald Head Island properties being placed within the outer boundary of NC07P were clearly not intended by Congress when maps were created.

While correcting the lines around Bald Head Island, the Fish and Wildlife Service—working with the State of North Carolina and the local communities contained within NC07P—identified additional acres that are eligible for addition to NC07P. As such, the technical changes called for in this legislation, which I was pleased to work so closely on with Senator ELIZABETH DOLE, have the added benefit of vastly increasing the overall acreage in the map.

Many people were involved in this process. Mr. Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Resources, U.S. Representatives RICHARD POMBO and NICK RAHALL, as well as the Chairman and Ranking Members of the Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans, U.S. Representatives WAYNE GILCHREST and FRANK PALLONE. I would also like to thank Senator DOLE for her hard work on this; Dave Jansen of the Resources Committee; Katie Nemi, Paul Suza, and all of the staff over at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Becky King, former Village Manager of Bald Head Island; and Mary Ellen Simmons of my staff for all of her hard work in coordinating this incredible effort.

As hurricane season approaches, there are landowners on Bald Head Island who, by no fault of their own, would be left unprotected if a storm were to hit the lower Cape Fear region. That is why this matter requires immediate attention, and why I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this important piece of legislation.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1663, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING VOTING RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF ARMED SERVICES IN ELECTIONS FOR DELEGATE REPRESENTING AMERICAN SAMOA

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2010) to protect the voting rights of members of the Armed Services in elections for the Delegate representing American Samoa in the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2010

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) It is in the national interest that qualifying members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters be allowed to vote in Federal elections.

(2) Since 1980, when the first election for the Congressional Delegate from American Samoa was held, general elections have been held in the first week of November in even-numbered years and runoff elections have been held 2 weeks later.

(3) This practice of holding a run-off election 2 weeks after a general election deprives members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters of the opportunity to participate in the Federal election process in American Samoa.

(4) Prior to and since September 11, 2001, and due to limited air service, mail delays, and other considerations, it has been and remains impossible for absentee ballots to be prepared and returned within a 2-week period.

(5) American Samoa law requiring members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters to register in person also prevents participation in the Federal election process and is contrary to the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

(6) Given that 49 states elect their Representatives to the United States House of Representatives by plurality, it is in the national interest for American Samoa to do the same until such time as the American Samoa Legislature establishes primary elections and declares null and void the local practice of requiring members of the Armed Forces on active duty and other overseas voters to register in person which is contrary to the federal Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.

SEC. 2. PLURALITY OF VOTES REQUIRED FOR ELECTION OF DELEGATE.

Section 2 of the Act entitled "An Act to provide that the Territory of American Samoa be represented by a nonvoting Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, and for other purposes", approved October 31, 1978 (48 U.S.C. 1732; Public Law 95-556) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "majority" and inserting "plurality" the first place it appears; and

(B) by striking "If no candidate" and all that follows through "office of Delegate."; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

"(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS.—The legislature of American Samoa may, but is not required to, provide for primary elections for the election of Delegate.

"(d) EFFECT OF ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIMARY ELECTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), if the legislature of American Samoa provides for primary elections for the election of Delegate, the Delegate shall be elected by a majority of votes cast in any subsequent general election for the office of Delegate for which such primary elections were held."